WITH THE DEMOCRATS IN BALTIMORE.

To Make Laboratories of Prisons

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now." Unfortunately for the taxpayer, the chief person to profit from the prison laborer whose work has been sold is the contractor who secures it. It is stated that it costs the City of New Haven and its taxpayers as much to support the prisoners in its jail as the Detroit House of Correction turns into the treasury of that city. New Haven, according to Dr. Whitin, receives six cents a day for its prison laborers, and "seeks to get work out of the convict by physical punishment," while "the Detroit institution makes a profit by paying its convicts from 15 to 25 cents a day as wages. The New Haven institution forgets the convict can have a wife and children depending upon him, while the Detroit institution provides for their every need." Wethersfield, Conn., also is blessed with the contract system. All the men work on two contracts, though few of the men are being trained by these contracts to earn their livelihood after leaving prison. All wardens and many contractors agree that the industries should be so scattered that the men should be trained into the lines they are to follow after leaving prison. The authorities at Wethersfield have centred upon two industries—boots and shirts—to the detriment of the convicts, but to the supposed financial advantage of the institution. History disproves this contention. From 1828 for fifty years, when a large number of occupations were carried on, the institution showed a net profit of several thousand dollars to the state. When these industries were suspended and shoes alone made the industry the loss kept increasing every year till they introduced a second industry, which partly overcame the loss, but the institution has never gone back to its basis of educational work for the prisoner and profit for the institution."

More overalls and shirts than any other articles are made in prisons for outside contractors. One contracting firm controls the output of fifteen prisons. In Rhode Island this firm pays 35 cents a dozen for making the shirts, and the contract is practically perpetual so far as the contractor is concerned, for at five years intervals he has the option of continuing or relinquishing it. This same firm has part of the labor at Wethersfield prison. In Delaware the prisoners are employed under contract at making clothing for the public. Nearly all of the product is sold in New York. It is estimated that New York City is the market for prison made goods at the rate of $10,000,000 annually. The button industry has become definitely a prison industry, owing to the unorganized condition of the free laborers in this occupation. In the Southern States the prisoners are employed in road making, mining, building levees, etc. In Virginia, until recently, the prisoners worked upon shoe contracts and made as many as a million pairs a year. They now build roads for the state.

All sorts of devices are resorted to for the purpose of stimulating the prisoners to greater production. Labor organizations may object to efficiency systems, but it is not for the prisoner to put forth any objections. In the Rhode Island prison the man who accomplishes more than he did the day previous is rewarded for his efforts by the gift of a plug of tobacco. Any prisoner who produces more than 50 per cent above the average of the prison shares in the profits of his handiwork. What his share is may be judged by the fact that sometimes in this way he reaps as much as $5 in one month. Under this system of stimulation it is said the product has tripled since it was introduced.

Exploitation, not reformation, is the key to the contract labor system. It opens the door to graft, and therefore is of negative value to the taxpayer. It does not help the prisoner, for it deadens any ambition he may have to better himself, and it does not help free labor, for it comes into competition with it. Any manufacturer could make goods cheaper if he could be rid of certain of the overhead charges, such as the erection of buildings, and could have freedom from strikes and public maintenance of his workers. The owner of negro slaves felt some interest in the health of his human property, for it was his property, and had a money value. The contractor who employs prison labor has not that incentive even for taking thought for his workers. He has no money invested in them. If one falls by the wayside he can call upon the state to furnish him with another to take the place of the man who has fallen.

"But what shall be done with the prisoner?" some one asks. "You can't permit him to be idle. He ought not to be."

This is where the idealistic penologist such as Mr. Whitin steps up with his programme. Let the prisoner work for the state, says he. Working for the state is more stimulating than working for contractors, whose interest in him is confined to his capacity as a piece of machinery. Let him work at the labor for which he is best fitted and in which his interests lie. All kinds of labor can be found represented in prisons. If the prisoner does not possess a trade, teach him one. Fit him for readmission to society as a contributor to its welfare. Contract labor does not fit a man for his after life. Give him a chance to build himself up physically. Give him a money compensation for the fruits of his labor above the cost of his maintenance. Perhaps the amount honestly earned and received will remove the burden of his family from society.

"But how about the product of his labor? Who is going to buy that? And how will free labor be saved from the competition of this so-called slave labor?"

Let the state buy the products for the state institutions, says the penologist. This may interfere with the purchase of supplies from favored manufacturers and dealers, but it will be a benefit to the free laborer and the taxpayer. This is called the "state's use" system and was first adopted in New York State in 1894, when the present constitution was framed. To be sure, there may be evils in the state's use system, for it was discovered in a careful investigation recently that the sales agent for the prisons of New York State conducted a private business of furnishing supplies to the state institutions from outside sources at the same desk at which he made sales of the prison made goods. It was discovered that of the $20,000,000 worth required only goods to the value of $1,000,000 were taken from the prisons and that one-third of the prisoners were idle and the remainder were not kept supplied with work for their full time, and, indeed, were allowed to loaf when they were supposed to be at work. These evils are being remedied. The system is so good that several other states have adopted it.

One other requirement this same penologist insists upon. That is that the work done shall in all cases really be productive. That is to say, that it shall be done, not on the principle that Satan has jobs for idle hands to perform, nor for the sole purpose of teaching a trade, with the expectation that the product will be destroyed without fulfilling any other useful purpose, but that it shall have a useful end to serve and carry with it the dignity of a piece of work which society will be willing to utilize. Instead of setting a prisoner at work upon a brick wall for the sake of instructing him in a trade, and which is afterward to be torn down, let him work directly upon a building that is required for use and that furnishes an incentive for good work, because it is expected to last. To do work which counts in this way, in the minds of some repentant convicts, would be esteemed an opportunity to make some recompense to society for the wrong done in the commission of crime.

It has been demonstrated at institutions of a diversified character that work for which reasonable compensation is paid maintains the institution and may turn over a profit. Road building has been undertaken in some states, and there are a number of penal farms which have furnished big profits to the state, as well as healthful occupation and training in an employment which will be of great service to the prisoners when their terms expire. At Green Bay, Wis., the inmates, utilizing as capital an appropriation less than is ordinarily made for a small jail, constructed an auditorium, a gymnasium, a spacious dining room, numerous classrooms and a beautiful swimming pool. Some of the furniture made at the Mansfield (Ohio) Reformatory was so well made that it is in use at the state Capitol. In Mississippi the state penal farms netted the state in a period of twenty-one months the sum of $519,159 74, and gave the men and women useful employment, as well as a good living.

But the penologist sees even greater things in a prison. He thinks of it not only as a trade school, but a laboratory in which certain problems can be worked out. He points out that the present trade schools in this country could gain by adopting the principle of "productive" work.

"The new industrial penology," said Mr. Whitin recently, "will help solve the problem of the trade school, which has not been solved. It is going to solve some of the problems of the industrial world. For instance, the question of efficiency and fatigue. What is the result of the application of the principles of efficiency? How far do they fatigue a man? How much work may a man be expected to perform without injury to himself? We can obtain excellent information regarding fatigue, for here you have a group of men under such close observation that every effect of work and of diet can be noted. The men are isolated from influences which might affect their physical condition and under the care of officials who can supervise their living. The question of efficiency and fatigue is one of those which must be worked out for the benefit of free organized labor, and it cannot be done so well elsewhere.

"By public efficiency I mean the elimination of the middlemen through the state or municipality supplying its own needs. This form of public efficiency will be greatly enhanced by the demand for standardization of commodities and prices made imperative by the need of the prison industries to supply the order market. Accurate accounting, the introduction of budgets and methods of testing the actual value of articles, all are included and naturally grow out of the suggestion of a board of classification for prison industries, or, as it is called in Ohio, Wisconsin and other states, a state board of control.

"I believe that we must take custodial care of all those persons whom we do not wish to reproduce their kind. This is a negative phase of eugenics. If we are going to segregate such we have no right to penalize them at the same time. They are criminals from hereditary causes, not of their own volition. The cost must not be prohibitive or society will not be willing to meet the bill for segregating all. We must create a successful and efficiently managed community in which the only difference between it and the outside world is that it has limits beyond which its inhabitants may not go. They are not free agents to depart at will. These limits can be entirely mental and need not be physical in any sense. This can be secured by providing for those unfortunates a normal existence similar to that which is lived in any other community. This is all that they can ever secure anywhere. The new industrial penology may demonstrate more clearly the practicability of such a plan."

The New Flag

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a thing separate and apart. It is, however, a task that is of much greater magnitude than might be expected. Not only have all the ships of the navy to be kept in flags of the United States that are flawless, but it is likewise necessary that these ships should be supplied with a score of flags of every nation in the world. This because of the possibility that the given ship will at some time go into the port of the given country and the flag will of necessity have to be flown.

Besides the ordinary flags of various sizes each ship must have coats of arms, the President's standard, the flag of the Secretary of the Navy, flags for rear admirals of various rank, all different in color and design; mail flags, yacht ensigns and scores of others. She must have the barred, square flags of the Argentine Republic; the vivid colors of Austria's yellow and red, the starry blue banner of Brazil, the grewsome dragons of China, the whiskered gentleman from Denmark, the tricolor of France, the imposing standard of the Emperor of Germany, the royal standard of Great Britain, with specials for all the governors of colonies: Mexico's eagle must scream from its perch of thorns; even the white elephant of Siam must strut on a suitable banner; the crescent of Turkey, the plain two bars of Monaco, which harbors Monte Carlo; the national flag of the Mosquito Islands—all these must find place in the locker of every battleship.

All these are therefore made and made carefully at the Brooklyn navy yard, where the department has its chief force of flag workers. To be sure, there is a minor force at work at Mare Island, near San Francisco, where flags are also made and the efforts of the Brooklyn branch supplemented. But in Brooklyn most of these countless flags are made. They mount into the thousands of different designs. All the flags of all the nations of the world are made here. The federal government appropriates $60,000 a year for this particular purpose, and that amount is expended in keeping the ships in flags. Experts keep constantly in touch with the flags of the world, and if a change is anywhere made note is immediately taken of it and the necessary changes are made.

It is in this work that special skill is required. The operators of the embroidery machines must have the art and the cleverness to place the very characteristic design on a given flag in just the right way. To make and place a Chinese dragon in true Chinese style and of such kind as to give no offence in native waters is so small task.

So the flags of the sea come from the Brooklyn navy yard and that at Mare Island, while the landlubber's design is made in the side street shop in Washington. This latter is the flag of the people, while the former weighs from the world standpoint, for it knows all ports. All will be in the breeze on the Fourth.

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Map Making

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stone, blue and steel, gray. There are conventional signs to show the number of stories, roof covering, whether there are fire walls, windows or openings in side and bearing walls unprotected or protected by wire glass or shutters, location of elevators, well holes, hatchways, skylights and other points. Whether a fireproof building is endangered by its neighbors of poor construction appears at a glance. Besides determining individual risks, the maps are used to keep track of the amount at risk in any one block or section of a city. The companies have learned by hard experience not to carry too much insurance in one locality, but to distribute their chances of loss.

The making of these maps is a work of infinite detail. Surveyors who are sent to a city or town usually obtain preliminary data on blocks and streets from the city engineer's office. After the blocks are plotted each building is measured carefully and drawn on the map on the fifty-foot to the inch scale. Then each building must be inspected from cellar to roof, so that every detail may be seen and noted. Not a skylight or a window may be left out. To do the field work alone in a large city requires two years' work of a dozen surveyors. All are trained for this particular job. There is more fine labor for the draftsmen, for errors are likely to creep in, despite all care, here as in the field. When lithographed the maps are mounted on muslin and bound in volumes about two feet square, each weighing around twenty-five pounds.

The smaller towns and cities are remapped every five or six years, while the maps of large cities are revised every six months or two years. In New York City revision is facilitated by the "chocolate slips" sent out by the Board of Fire Underwriters, which controls changes in buildings, but elsewhere revision generally means that all buildings must be inspected throughout just as though the original surveys had never been made. It takes sixteen volumes of maps to cover Brooklyn. Chicago has twenty-seven volumes, while Buffalo is contained in five volumes. About seven thousand towns and cities are charted.

The fire insurance maps are used by real estate men, by life insurance, bond, and mortgage and trust companies to keep track of loans on property, and by several New York City departments, including the Fire Department, tax assessors, Board of Health and Tenement House Department.

TO GET SOME.

Representative Henry, of Texas, told at a dinner in Waco one of his international alliance stories.

"A New York heiress," he said, "was engaged to a Spanish grandee.

"'Don Guzman,' the girl said thoughtfully one June morning—the scene was London and they were walking in the Row—'Don Guzman, the society papers declare that you are marrying me solely for my money.'

"'They lie, my love,' the young grandee answered, fixing a fresh cigarette in his long amber tube.

"'Nevertheless,' said the girl, 'their censure hurts me. I won't have them saying such nasty things about you.'

"'But how will you stop them?' he asked.

"'By giving my entire fortune to the missionaries,' she replied. 'I shall make my fortune over to the missionaries at once.'

"The grandee settled his shining hat more firmly on the back of his head and set off at a great pace in the direction of Hyde Park Corner.

"'But, Don Guzman,' cried the girl, 'where are you going?'

"'I am going,' he called back, 'to become a missionary.'"

ON THE SUFFRAGETTE.

Dr. Lyman Abbott, at a luncheon in New York, told a good story about a suffragette.

"A lecturer at Carnegie Hall," he said, "was describing certain Western towns where the males far outnumber the females. He ended his description with a mild joke. He said:

"'I heartily advise every unmarried suffragette sister to include these towns in her next vacation tour.'

"A suffragette in a front seat made an exclamation of annoyance at this, and, rising, she stalked out of the hall.

"The lecturer smiled upon her indignant departing figure and said:

"'But, miss, miss, I didn't mean that you should start in such a hurry!'"